

Up to October 14, 1967

2,398 U.S. PLANES DOWNED
OVER NORTH VIET NAM

VIETNAM

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SOUTH VIETNAM

2nd CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S A.F. VIVID EXPRESSION OF THE WILL TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

REPORTAGE ON THE OPENING SESSION

(Pages 4-5)



President Nguyen Huu Tho delivers the opening speech

OPENING SPEECH OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO

Dear Comrades,

ON behalf of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee, I wish to convey warm greetings to the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

Our Congress opens at a time when we are recording big victories, marking the rapid growth of our armed forces and people over the

past two years. Following the brilliant victories of last year's dry and rainy seasons, this dry season, the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people have maintained their initiative on the battlefields, continually attacked the enemy and scored the greatest successes so far in the military, political and diplomatic fields, driving him into a more serious quandary and passive position. Those tremendous successes of our armed forces and people bear a consid-

derable strategic significance as they repeatedly foiled the very important initial steps of the American aggressors' "limited war." The U.S. "search and destroy" and "pacification" — have come to a lamentable grief. Not only did the enemy fail to attain his strategic objectives, he received telling counterblows. With a 1,200,000 strong army, he could not wrest back the initiative on the battlefield, but lapsed further into strategic pas-

sivity and an ever more defensive position. All his large-scale operations failed; his combat effectiveness was very low; the number of his casualties kept increasing while his losses in war means was very heavy and his tactics had gone bankrupt. Through actual fighting we better know the strong and weak points of the U.S. expeditionary troops and better realize the immense strength of people's war. From this basis we have drawn valuable experiences, improved our people's war strategy and tactics, and realize more clearly the laws governing the development of the national liberation revolution in South Viet Nam, — which makes all our armed forces and people more confident in their capabilities to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors.

Our Congress opens after a historic event which constitutes a source of immense pride for all our armed forces and people: the Extraordinary Congress of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation which has unanimously approved the Front's new Political Programme whose echo is resounding far and wide in our country and in the world. That in a programme of broad national union, of international solidarity and of determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, a programme for national reconstruction and for the eventual reunification of our country.

Our Congress opens at a moment when our armed forces and people, availing themselves of their successes, continue to perform feats of arms in Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Da Nang, Ben Hoa, Phuoc Vinh, Binh Long, Ngai Giao, Cu Chi and Can Tho, thereby pushing the U.S. aggressors and their valets

rapidly towards complete defeat; when the army and people of our blood sealed North enthusiastically responding to President Ho Chi Minh's "Resist U.S. aggression for national salvation" sacred appeal, are wholeheartedly and unstintedly supporting the struggle for the liberation of the South, have dealt repeated heavy blows at the invaders and brought down the 2,000th American aircraft; when the countries in the socialist camp, the progressive people the world over, the anti-U.S. movement and the movement against aggression in the United States itself are condemning and protesting against the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, warmly shoring up our people's just resistance and, shoulder to shoulder with us, opposing the common enemy.

Our Congress is a congress of victors, that of elite fighters, representatives of the epoch of struggle against U.S. imperialism, in the forefront of which our people have the honour to fight. Our Congress does not only represent the cream of our armed forces but it is also the condensed, magnificent and vivid expression of our 13 million compatriots in the South, of men and women who have the heart to fight and the determination to defeat the U.S. aggressors. Clearly, it deserves to be called the congress of the resolve to fight and defeat U.S. aggression.

The Extraordinary Congress of the Front held recently highly valued the military successes of our armed forces and people, highlighted these exploits of the people's Liberation troops, worthy sons of our people who deserve the confidence of our 13 million compatriots in both parts of the country.

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IN a speech at a dinner organized by the Democratic Party in Washington on Oct. 7, President Johnson once again asserted that he will continue the policy of aggression he is carrying out in Viet Nam. He kept clamouring "I will do everything in my power" and "I will determine to see it (the Viet Nam war) through." He also egged on the American people to follow him in a stalemated adventure: "Next year will be a testing time for America." Infatuated with pride, he termed the dissenting voices raised against his policy as "the voice of the ostrich." (AP, Oct. 7)

Thus, in one week beginning Sept. 29, the Jopman of the White House twice came out in defence of his own policy. But knowledgeable people can see that he had pursued an ostrich policy.

In fact, the aggressors are running into danger, on the battlefield, in the first place. Failures in the rainy season which came after the 1966-67 dry season, under the hammer blows of the L. A. F. from Highway 9 just south of the 17th parallel to Highway 4 in the Mekong Delta or deep in U.S. strategic bases have warned the Pentagon of the sinking of the U.S. expeditionary forces in the tropical rains as well as the despair in the dry season which has arrived. The picture of the U.S. tiger leaping in a cage, used by the West to urge U.S. marines off Con Tien, is also the picture of the whole U.S. expeditionary forces in South Viet Nam, in the midst of their own people's war. New escalation in the North only brings back and news to the other side of the Pacific. *Two Days* on Oct. 1 wrote: "Two and a half years of bombing the North has done little if

JOHNSON'S ONLY ANSWER: CONTINUED WAR ESCALATION

anything to shorten the war (if) and could not do so, even if the bombing were intensified."

In the international arena, at the U.N. General Assembly, Washington's setbacks are all the more damaging, since this international forum has been manipulated by the U.S. for interfering in the Viet Nam issue. Not only have many member countries maintained that a debate on the Viet Nam problem is not within the province of the U.N., but all speakers, except a few paltry satellites, and in fact, and worth noticing, many N.A.T.O. member countries such as France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Canada, and even Dutch Foreign Minister J. Luns, the strongest supporter of American policies in Western Europe, have followed that course. The Italian president also expressed a similar view during a meeting with President Johnson. Outside the U.N., attention is drawn to the British Labour Party Congress in Scarborough which adopted a resolution

demanding that the British government disassociate itself from American policies in Viet Nam.

Political pressure weighs so heavily on the White House that Senator J.S. Cooper has had to exclaim: "The necessity of a cessation of bombing is becoming a worldwide judgment. It is one which the United States cannot ignore." (UPI, Oct. 3)

man of the White House been lost so seriously as it is at present in the eye of the American public.

Successful proof show that support for Johnson is now at its lowest ebb. According to Oct. 9, Johnson's opponents have reached a record figure, or double the number of proponents.

Meanwhile the anti-war movement of the American people has risen above the quarrel of the U.S. ruling circles who are only seeking ways and means to wage aggressive war. The peace organizations in the U.S. have decided to hold on October 21 outside the White House the biggest meetings and demonstrations known so far. (On October 9, the "Negotiation Now" organization handed to the American Congress a petition bearing 500,000 signatures demanding an end to the bombing of North Viet Nam.

Having gloomy prospects before him in his effort to preserve the President's Chair in the coming elections, Johnson conducted his own defence, claiming that he could "temporarily increase his popularity by changing his Viet Nam policy." (Rendez Oct. 7) and that "I have made up my mind (AP, Oct. 7, 1967).

Johnson's option is inconsistent with the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the American people who are demanding that the U.S. end its aggression in both South and North Viet Nam, bring its expeditionary troops home and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves.

The way he has chosen is the continuation of war escalation in Viet Nam and its international and expansion by dangerous steps in defiance of world public opinion.

No sooner had he concluded his speech than U.S. aircraft made a bombing attack on Cao Bang province close to China's frontier, while other bombing raids, rather frequent, were continuously directed against Hai Phong city, the Viet Nam-China borderland and other residential areas. In an effort to remedy the precarious situation south of the 17th parallel, the Pentagon, according to reports from Washington, has mapped out the plan for a new adventure: troop landing in North Viet Nam. Senator Vance Hartke has said: "There is no question that an invasion is being considered" (UPI, Oct. 7). Of course, whether this plan can be realized or not no longer depends on Johnson's wish. Since the U.S. expeditionary forces are being bogged down in South Viet Nam, this adventure is tantamount to a journey without return followed by incalculable consequences for U.S. global policy.

The U.S. policy deadlock in Viet Nam, its military stalemate here, stems from the intransigence and bellicosity of the U.S. government headed by Johnson. It has deliberately turned its back against the correct aspirations and views of progressive mankind as far as the Viet Nam settlement is concerned. It has still failed to draw a useful lesson from its military defeats. The valiant fight of the Vietnamese people against both the South and the North brings home the truth that only the U.S. and its aggressor allies can serve as an eye-gouger for the U.S. aggressors. On the other hand, the fight has more and more elucidated the correct stand of the Vietnamese people expounded in the 4-point stand of the R.V.N. Government which is receiving broad approval and support

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE 22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF LAOS (October 12, 1945)

GREAT VICTORY OF THE LAO PEOPLE

CELEBRATING ON Oct. 12, 1967 the 22nd anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos, an independent and free country, the Vietnamese people have heartily hailed the historical day of the fraternal Lao people.

22 years ago, on the same day, the Lao people in co-ordination with the brother Vietnamese in Indochina rose up almost with one voice to seize power from the Japanese fascists, thereby ending 60 years of French colonial domination.

Gathering under the leading flag of the *Neo Lao Issara*, the prefiguration of the *Neo Lao Haksat*, headed by Prince Souphanouvong, with the correct political line and policy of broad based national unity, and closely co-ordinating their action with the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia, the Lao people carried out the long year arduous but glorious resistance and finally achieved the great victory of the Lao people against the French colonialists' expeditionary corps backed by the U.S. interventionists.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China were signed, which recognized the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Laos. This constituted a very important victory of the Lao people in their struggle against foreign aggression and at the same time a valuable contribution to the safeguarding of national independence in South-East Asia and the world.

Replacing the French colonialists, the U.S. imperialists are today plotting to start Laos into a new-type colony and a military base in Indo-China, South-East Asia.

They sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China which concerned also Laos and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, overthrew twice the national union government of which *Neo Lao Haksat* was a member (the national union government was established in 1957 and the tri-partite national union government on June 23, 1962, hoping to annex the Lao liberated zones by force. After the coup d'etat against the tri-partite national union government on April 19, 1964, the U.S. imperialists created the *Vientiane* administration and relying on it and on a 70,000 strong U.S. military army, maintained and equipped and commanded by them a systematic, systematic U.S. military adventures, they conducted tens of thousands of nibbling attacks on the Lao liberated zone, mounted numerous "pacification" raids on the area, systematically controlled by them and stepped up the aggressive war against Laos under the form of a "special war" to an unprecedented fierceness. In co-ordination with Laos operations the U.S. imperialists have openly used aircraft (including B-52 strategic bombers, April 1966) based on the 7th Fleet in Thailand and South Viet Nam, and extremely barbarous mass killings of Lao people with napalm, phosphorous bombs, steel-pellet bombs and toxic chemical weapons, thereby densely populated areas and enterprises in the Lao liberated zone, material and moral life in the liberated zone, thus commit-

ting countless savage crimes. In spite of repeated defeats in Laos as well as in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists are still frantically intensifying and expanding their way of aggression in Laos, plotting new adventures and preparing public opinion for the dispatch of an U.S. expeditionary force to commit aggression in Laos, thus aggravating the situation there and jeopardizing peace and security in Indo-China and South East Asia.

The Vietnamese people express their deep admiration for the brother Lao people who, in defiance of such a cruel enemy and under the clearheaded leadership of the

Neo Lao Haksat headed by Prince Souphanouvong, have been fighting very valiantly and undauntedly during the past 13 years to defend the liberated zone and have scored brilliant victories.

The greatest and most significant victory is that the *Neo Lao Haksat* has been constantly holding high the banner of national independence, peace and neutrality and that with its correct line and policy, it has gathered broad masses of people from all walks of life, various religious communities and classes into a broader and more solid National United Front against the U.S. imperialists and for national salvation. What is

most remarkable is the strengthening of the alliance between the *Neo Lao Haksat* and the patriotic neutral forces, an alliance which has been further consolidated the broad-based national monolith of the Lao people, thus dealing a deadly blow at the perfidious divisive policy of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

The Vietnamese people are very elated and enthusiastic at the achievements gained by the fraternal Lao people and regard these as their own. These achievements are a source of encouragement for the peoples of the two countries in their struggle against the common enemy, the U.S.

aggressors and their henchmen. However, ironical, oblate and wicked the U.S. imperialists may be, the Vietnamese people are firmly convinced that with the strength of the broad-based national union, the fraternal Lao people will completely defeat the U.S. imperialists and achieve a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.



A few images of the Lao liberated areas
1. A unit of the Lao Liberation People's Army
2. Tending the Winter-Spring ricecrop in Xieng Lmoung (Sam Neua province)
3. Medical workers constantly care for the health of the people
4. A complementary education class

SUCCESS OF 22 YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE OF THE LAO PEOPLE

I. MILITARY SUCCESSES

a) Achievements of 9 Years of Struggle Against the French Colonialists:

3,000 battles were fought in which 17,000 enemy soldiers were put out of action including 1,000 officers (from subalterns to field officers) and 20,000 firearms of various descriptions and over 300 tons of military equipment seized.

b) Achievements in the Struggle Against the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen:

From 1954 to the end of August 1967, 79,000 enemy soldiers were wiped out including 31,410 killed, 18,500 wounded and 28,590 who were captured or surrendered. Thousands of tons of arms and ammunition were seized.

—Between May 17, 1964 and September 21, 1967, 665 U.S. aircraft were downed or destroyed.

—Over 30 motor-boats and cars were sunk or set ablaze.

II. BUILDING OF THE LIBERATED AREAS

From 2 regroupment provinces (Phong Sa Ly and Sam Neua) in 1954, the liberated areas covered in 1967 two thirds of the Lao territory with half the country's total population. Laos was a backward agrarian country with a poor economy and a declining culture (in 1954 she had only one secondary school, 6,000 pupils of general education, 1 doctor and 200 hospital beds). Now, in 5 years of national construction, the liberated areas have achieved the following achievements:

Culture and Education: There are 824 general education establishments including 7 secondary schools (with 2,500 teachers and 70,000 pupils), 3 elementary teachers' schools, 1 secondary school for girls, and 100 primary schools for infant-classes. Since 1963, 550,000 text books have been printed. The Lao language is taught in primary and elementary schools. The Lao people are becoming literate.

Health Service: There are in the liberated areas 16 hospitals, 10 provincial hospitals with 800 beds and specialized departments, a widespread network of infirmaries, first-aid stations and maternity homes, and a dozen mobile medical teams.

—Over 200 doctors, assistant doctors and pharmacists and 4,000 nurses.

—A number of drug-stores producing over 10 tons of medicines a year (one third of which is made from local materials).

VICTIMS OF U.S. STEEL-PELLET BOMBS ON SEPT. 28, 1967 IN THANH HOA



Tran Van Long, 10, and Tran Thi Chu, 12, 3rd form pupils, Ha Phu school

U.S. PLANES HIT ANOTHER SCHOOL

FROM magnificent Mexico to San Juan de Cuba, bathed in the Autumn light of the Caribbean Sea, from Port Etienne open to the Atlantic winds to sultry Mecca the Holy City, from the sandy beaches to the peaceful villages of Hawaii, the 32nd State of the U.S.A., in a day of the U.S. planes, the 32nd parallel, millions of children have resumed their way to school with their hearts filled with joy and their minds with nice dreams.

On this parallel, a small village school of Viet Nam Ha Phu village, Ha Trung district, Thanh Hoa province, began its school-year with a tragedy. The account of the event was told to us by Nguyen Thi Thanh, 8, pupil of the 2nd form at a press conference held on October 4, 1967 in Hanoi.

Said she: "I got up early on the morning of Wednesday September 27. I washed my face, combed my hair, then took my anti-splinter strap hat to school. I also picked up my mates Hua and Nhung who lived near my house. We came early to school. We skipped a little before entering the class

room. After the arithmetic lesson, we had a little break.

"Then came dictation with a text entitled: 'The People's School'. As we began writing, an alert wail. Our mistress shouted: 'Everybody to the shelters, quickly!' As I was running to a trench, bombs exploded. We lay down in no time. Feeling a great pain in an arm, I sat up. I saw by me Nhung with a bit of white brain oozing out and Hue bleeding in the leg and in his belly. I shouted, 'Hue, stand up and run to cover.' But she could hardly move. I bandaged her wounds and tried to lift her up and carry her on my back Nhung with me to the shelter and run off. I am seriously wounded, and too heavy for you. Run to safety, Thanh!"

Thanh did not immediately seek cover. She ran to a first aid station asking people to help Hue and Nhung.

Hue, Nhung and Thanh were not the children of the C.B.U. bombs containing 2,000 round balls killing 33 people, wounded 130, and 15 years of age, wounded 28 others and 2 mistresses. In addition 7 inhabitants in the bomb-

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VIENT NAM COURIER

VIENT NAM COURIER

SECOND CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMS AND MEN



In these glorious, historic days of the nation, when the South Vietnamese people were enthusiastically welcoming the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and when the gun reports of victorious attacks came in quick succession in both parts of the country, the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F. solemnly opened in a liberated area of South Viet Nam.

The bright sunshine of this Autumn morning danced joyfully on the brightly colourful forest of flags and flowers which were waving to the finest sons and daughters of the Southern Brass Wall now entering the splendidly decorated meeting hall.

The Vietnamese heroes and heroines of the "fight-and-defeat Yanks" era were coming to the Congress with immense joy and pride. Here were delegates from undaunted Quang Tri-Thua Thien, who had achieved glorious feats of arms at Doc Mien, Gio Linh, Phu Bai and Highway 9. They included Lich, the woman guerrilla of the jungled mountains of Thua Thien who had struck fear into the enemy's heart; Phan Thanh Chung, the spearhead against the enemy at Tan Le and Doc Mien; and Nguyen Viet Phong, who, fighting his first battle together with another guerrilla, had harassed a full-size U.S. battalion for a whole day.

And here was the delegation from heroic and undaunted Central Trung Bo, fighting along the red scarf worn by martyred hero Ngo May who had, years ago, stopped a whole convoy of the French aggressors in the 5th Zone, and

now glowing with honours after the battles of Ba Gia, Van Tuong, Plei Me and Da Nang. There was Quang Nam with the red banner "Loyal, courageous and stubborn, leading the fight against Yanks" represented by Nguyen Ngoc Binh, an all-perfect cadre who had wonderfully organized and commanded during attacks on Chu Lai air base and the destruction of Gia Hui position. Truong Van Hoa, who had 7 times won the title of first-class "Valiant anti-Yank fighter," Thanh Minh Tam, the woman guerrilla of the Western High Plateaux, distinguished for his exploit in an assault on Pleiku during which he had thrust deep into the enemy's base, killing an American colonel and destroying dozens of aircraft; the little boy Kpaklong of heroic Plei Me, who had wiped out two enemy soldiers with only two arrows, as his application for voluntary military service; and Nguyen Cong Tong, an outstanding company commander who had annihilated the whole command of a U.S. multi-battalion paratroop force at Thuan Nam.

Attending the Congress was also the delegation from Southern Trung Bo, a very tough battlefield which had achieved splendid success, with Bac Ai, the banner-bearer in bringing down U.S. planes with infantry weapons, and Le Van Phang, a valiant company commander who had fought over 130 battles, and with Nguyen Van Son, who

had once attacked Da Lat city with resounding success.

The delegation from Eastern Nam Bo came to the Congress with the victories won at Binh Gia, Dong Xoi, Bien Hoa, Bau Bang, Dau Quang and Tay Ninh; it included Ta Quang Ty, an outstanding cadre of the local main forces, on whom the combatants bestowed a three-fold title "Breach maker, retreat cut, and head-on interceptor," Nguyen Duc Nghia, who vowed not to return home if the U.S. aggressors are not wiped out, and who, in a combat, carried the attack home to the enemy at all risks and who once fastened a hand-bomb on a dud satchel charge to accomplish his mission then rushed forward to seize a bridge head; Nguyen Van Len, who had wiped out 768 enemy troops including 400 G.I.s with mines, setting a new record in the annals of the Congress; the good shot Nguyen Van Quang, who preferred to die a glorious death rather than live on bent knees, who, single handedly, had fought throughout most of the day against thousands of G.I.s and who once manned a heavy machine gun to attract the enemy's air and artillery power to ensure safety for his unit, killing in all 160 G.I.s, Australian and puppet soldiers; and 13-year-old Ho Van Min, who, with deep hatred for the Yanks, had used weapons captured from them to kill them and has to his

many daring attacks on the enemy bases which horrified the enemy and found big echoes at home and abroad. Ca Chi was also represented by 62-year-old U.A. who had stuck to his native land and destroyed 3 enemy armoured cars, and the 17-year-old girl, Nguyen Thi Tiep, who had shot 7 G.I.s dead and blasted an enemy tank.

The resounding victories won on various battlefields were the result of a so concerted fighting. Present at the Congress were also delegates from various branches of activity and various armed forces - artillery, engineering, transport, research and so on. Nguyen Van Viet had lived in a deep jungle for 5 or 6 years on to let a single grain of rice fall into the enemy's hands. Once with his army group he fought a battalion of U.S. raiders for a whole day, wiping out hundreds of them and keeping the store safe. Ngo Van Hinh, nicknamed "Road and bridge engineer," with a jungle knife, hid his unit to open 23 jungle trails totalling more than 200km, and built 55 bridges, some of them 200 metres long, capable of accommodating many types of vehicles.

The group of Die Linh women transport workers had many times carried supplies to the front under enemy bombs and shells, and once encircled by

the enemy, had fought stubbornly, without letting a single round of ammunition fall into the enemy's hands. Braving all dangers, they had sought by every means to remove wounded fighters for timely treatment at hospitals. Gunner Ha Minh Quang had destroyed over 20 armoured cars. Doan Hung, leader of a signal platoon, had held a height for two days running against a main force unit, thus creating conditions for other units to annihilate an enemy battalion. Huynh Thuc Ba, a "devoted physician and tender mother" of Central Trung Bo, Tran Van Lu, a handless peasant trained into medical doctor, had worked with self devotion and, together with his medical team, cured over 1,000 wounded army men, some in a critical state.

ident Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy commander of the South Viet Nam L.A.F., Tran Quoc Vinh, Deputy Political Commissar of the L.A.F., Nguyen Truong Thanh, hero of the Liberation Army, Nguyen Van Lan, model fighter of Eastern Nam Bo, Nguyen Thi Hanh, model fighter of Central Nam Bo, Binh Van Tran, model fighter of the Saigon-Gia Dinh area, Thanh Minh Tam, of the minority ethnic in the Western High Plateaux, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, Nguyen Ngoc Binh, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, Ho Duc, of the Pa Co minority group, model fighter of the Western High Plateaux, Ta Quang Ty and Nguyen Duc Nghia, model fighters of the main force units, Eastern Nam Bo, and others.

The army band struck up and the women artists of the Liberation Army Song and Dance Ensemble in their nice unisons rushed forward to present fresh bouquets to members of the Presidium amidst prolonged and thunderous applause. The Presidium stepped forward and distributed the flowers to the delegates. A moving sight came when President Nguyen Huu Thua presented another to Nguyen Van Thua, the youngest delegate. U.A. deeply touched, his hand quivering over a mass of roses, held tightly the hands of the Deputy Political Commissar of the L.A.F., Tran Quoc Vinh, who warmly greeted the Congress and informed the delegates that the Political Programme adopted at the recent Extraordinary

In an atmosphere of overwhelming enthusiasm, President Nguyen Huu Thua delivered the opening speech.

On behalf of the Presidium of the N.F.L., the Central Committee warmly greeted the Congress and informed the delegates that the Political Programme adopted at the recent Extraordinary

47 NEWLY PROMOTED HEROES

- ★ 10 martyrs
- ★ 4 women
- ★ 5 fighters of national minorities
- ★ 11 guerrillas
- ★ 17 regional army men
- ★ 19 regular army men

WIDED EXPRESSION OF THE WILL TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

Reportage by GIAI PHONG Press Agency

Congress of the N.F.L. had wide representation at home and abroad. This is a programme for great national union, a programme for the complete and total defeat of the U.S. aggressors, a programme for the realization of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam proceeding towards the peace and reunification of the country. The entire audience stood up and burst into prolonged applause, as an expression of the immense fervor and firm confidence of the L.A.F. towards the Front's Political Programme.

The Congress was a miniature of the whole South Viet Nam battlefield. The delegates were more numerous than in the previous congress, representing all the three kinds of troops - the regular forces, the regional forces and the guerrillas and militia - coming from all battlefields from Quang Tri-Thua Thien to Ca Mau, from the Western High Plateaux to the Mekong Delta. They included men and women, young and old, from the little guerrilla Ha Tinh, the heroic fighters Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha, and the shock combatant Nguyen Van Thua. The about 20 years of struggle, the people's life with U.S. tanks with calmness and delight.

The report made by Tran Quoc Vinh, Deputy Political Commissar of the

WASHINGTON: In comfortable drawing-rooms, White House and Pentagon men discuss. These men have at their disposal the greatest industrial potential of the imperialist world, hundreds of billions of dollars and yet, their faces show anguish, their opinions are divided, they grind their teeth. What is to be done in Viet Nam?

Somewhere in the free zone of South Viet Nam, here as everywhere else in the free zone, napalm, phosphorus, fragmentation bombs may be rained from the sky at any time; people are crowded in dark and dank shelters and must content themselves with modest rations. The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation meets in an extraordinary concern. Faces are relaxed, discussions go on in a calm atmosphere, opinions are carefully weighed without anyone being rushed or getting nervous. One would think that for these men and women, U.S. aircraft do not exist! The Political Programme adopted at the Congress not only deals with the present struggle but also tackles problems of the future: a programme worked out by men certain of their cause, confident of final victory.

Washington: The Pentagon men muster their best technicians, feverishly discuss how to kill more people and cattle, how to destroy more villages and crops, they must at all costs improve their napalm and fragmentation bombs, set up an effective electronic barrier, find new toxic chemicals!

Somewhere in the free zone of South Viet Nam, another congress meet, not to discuss techniques, but to promote people. Forty-seven fighters of the Liberation Armed Forces are promoted Heroes, their valour and exploits set up as examples for the entire people. To further arms is important, but the essential remains to have fighters - men.

Two worlds face each other: on one side, neo-colonialist policy, one of plunder, relying on the most up-to-date techniques; on the other, a just cause, that of national independence and freedom, with resolute, intelligent, conscious men who know for whom and for what they are fighting, inspired and directed by a just, invincible political and military line. This just cause, this line, which answers the deepest aspirations of an entire people, has caused millions of people to rise up determined to fight. And the courage and intelligence of millions of people ensure the firmest basis to that line, show up its shining truth.

Here is Nguyen Van Be, who was not yet twenty taken prisoner by the enemy, he kept his spirit of defiance, tried to annihilate the greater part of the number of enemy troops. He blew himself up with a mine in the midst of an enemy barracks, killing more than one hundred American and puppet men and officers, destroying several vehicles. That was his first battle.

Here is Pham Van Coi, a native of Cu Chi, a district adjoining Saigon, which American troops have repeatedly "mopped up," which B-52s have repeatedly bombed, where not a house, not a tree is left standing. But people have remained there, and whenever an American column penetrates into Cu Chi, it loses a large proportion of its effectiveness before being compelled to withdraw. For in Cu Chi, men like Pham Van Coi are bent on fighting, fighting with every means at their disposal, at any time of day and night, seizing every opportunity to destroy Yankee troops and tanks, M-113s, helicopters and aircraft. Before sacrificing his life, Pham Van Coi killed 120 Yankees, destroyed 5 armoured cars, downed one aircraft.

Here is Thi Thi Huynh, a frail girl who led a guerrilla unit in Tra Vinh province. When she was 16, while grazing buffaloes, she made traps and weapons, then together with other young girls, she organized the guerrilla unit of her village, which fought 70 battles and put out of action 300 enemy troops. To Thi Huynh alone annihilated 100.

Here is Doan Van Chin, of Cao Thau province, who has been responsible for many innovations in turning out all kinds of weapons. In his hands, dud bombs and shells, debris of American planes and helicopters, as well as bamboo and old nails become deadly weapons against the Yanks. What is more, the engines he produces are simple and easy to handle; his methods of manufacturing them can readily be popularized. He has worked out a method of training hornets to attack enemy columns raiding villages.

Here is Ho Duc, of the Western High Plateaux, an indefatigable supply carrier, who for months on end, with heavy loads on his back, walks up hill and down dale to bring supplies to the fighters. As say his comrades, he has legs and shoulders of bronze.

Here is Tran Van Lu, a poor peasant who by dint of hard work and long years of struggle, has become a doctor, and enjoys great esteem patient offers has become a doctor, and enjoys great esteem for his science and skill, and also for his boundless affection for his patients. Here is Nguyen Van Tang, who, operating in the muds of Saigon in spite of the tight network of American and puppet police, has led his group in bold attacks on enemy convoys, sowing terror among the Yanks.

One could never finish with the examples of heroism, determination and intelligence which constitute the people's daily life, just as courage and creative intelligence are the attitudes of every man and woman. One has only to step out of one's door.

One may discuss at length the various military, political, social and ideological factors which have led the South Vietnamese people to achieve such resounding victories over their aggressors, and for historians of the future, this has been and will remain a subject of thinking and meditation.

But right now, one can assert that in South Viet Nam, the people, with its courage, organizational ability and creative intelligence has triumphed over brutal technique, and that the cause of national independence, peace, freedom, and social progress has prevailed over the most cruel and perfidious designs of Yankee imperialism.

Photo: Presidium of the Congress

